

PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA

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THE SIXTH INCARNATION OF LORD VISHNU

Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is one of the immortals of Hindu mythology. It is in this incarnation that we encounter for the first time the emergence of a mature, well-developed human character. Because the first four incarnations belonged to non-human species and the fifth was a mere slip of a boy.

Parashurama in many ways is paradoxical. He loved his mother dearly and yet he slew her without a moment's hesitation. He was born a Brahman but he was a better soldier than any Kshatriya and went on to annihilate the Kshatriyas in the battlefield. Though born in a family of hermits, Parashurama was a man of action. His love of action took him into the eras of Rama and Krishna. Thus this is the only incarnation to step out of the confines of its own times.

Parashurama is the patron God of the land that stretches in between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea on the West Coast of India. People there believe that his powerful axe reclaimed the land for them from the depths of the ocean.

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PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA, BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE
FORTUNATE THAT
OUR KING IS
STRONG AND
KIND.

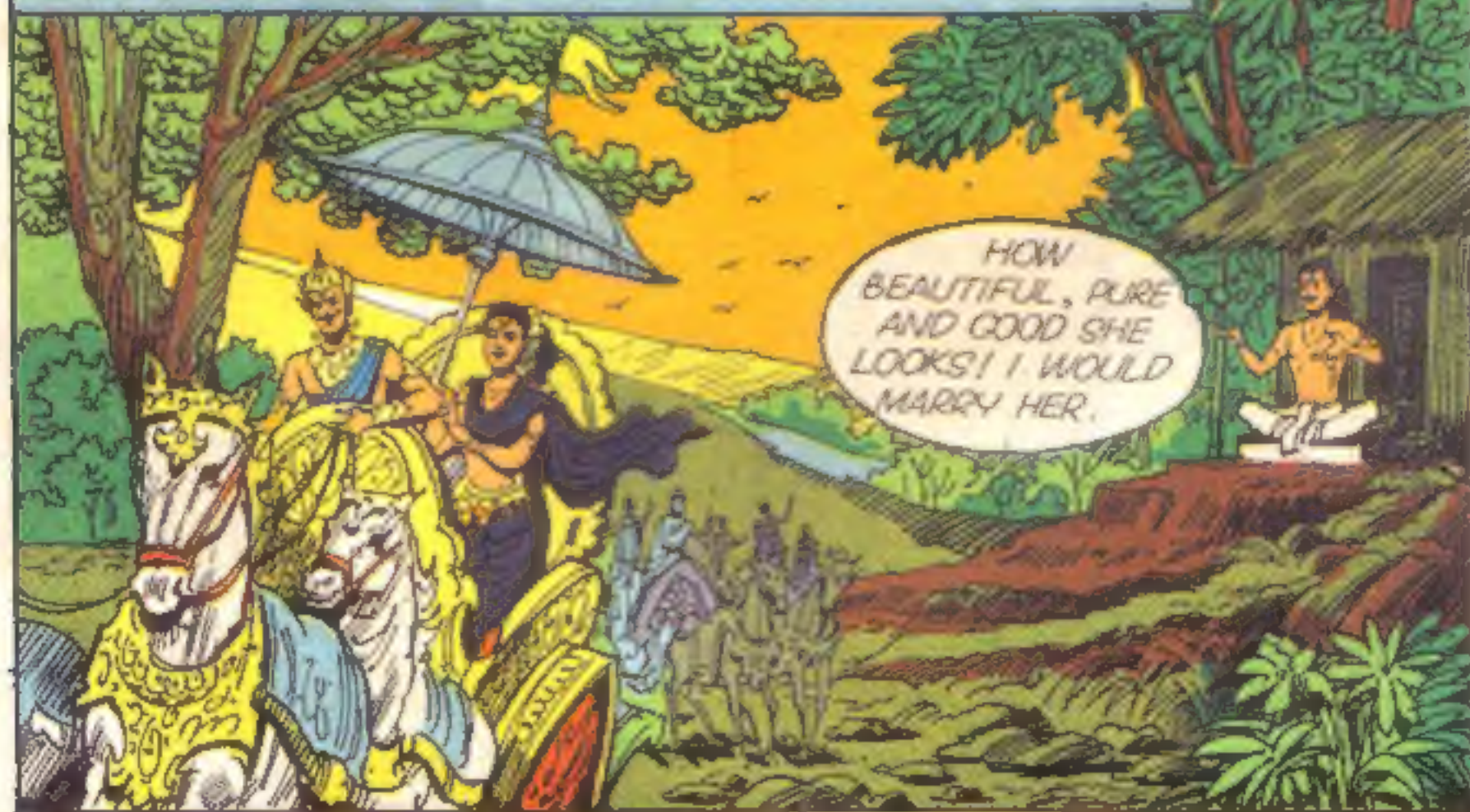
YES.
AS LONG AS
HE RULES,
WE NEED
FEAR NONE.



GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHKA SAW HER.



HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE
COME TO YOU
SEEKING YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
HAND.

I AM HONOURED,
GREAT SAGE.
BUT...

...YOU WILL HAVE
TO BRING A DOWRY
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.
IT IS THE CUSTOM
IN OUR
FAMILY.

CAN YOU?

IS THAT ALL?
IT SHOULD
NOT BE VERY
DIFFICULT.

SO RICHKA GAVE GADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...



...AND WAS
MARRIED TO
SATYAVATI.



ONE DAY BHRIGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS
WITH AFFECTION.

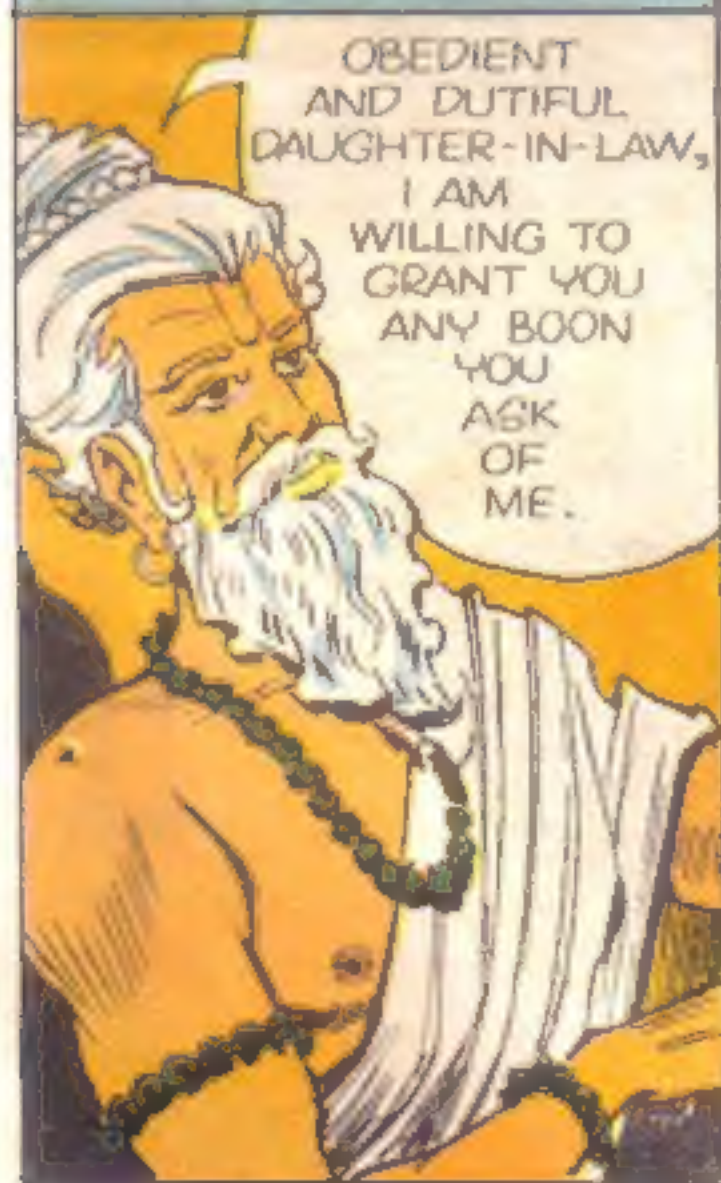


I AM INDEED
FORTUNATE
IN MY
CHILDREN.



BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

OBEDIENT
AND DUTIFUL
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,
I AM
WILLING TO
GRANT YOU
ANY BOON
YOU
ASK
OF ME.



FATHER,
GIVE ME A SON
AND A BROTHER.

YOU SHALL HAVE
BOTH.



THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.

HERE ARE
TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE
AND MILK.
THIS ONE IS
FOR YOU...

... AND
THAT ONE
FOR YOUR
MOTHER.

WHEN
BHRIGU
LEFT,
SATYAVATI
PICKED
THE POTS
AND
ALONG
WITH
HER
HUSBAND
WENT
TO HER
MOTHER.



WHEN SHE REACHED —

MOTHER! MOTHER!
I HAVE TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE AND MILK,
WHICH WILL GIVE US
A MIGHTY SON
EACH.

YOUR
MARRIAGE TO
RICHKA HAS INDEED
BROUGHT US
GOOD FORTUNE.

BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT
MEANT FOR SATYAVATI AND...



...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT
FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHRIGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL
VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,
MY CHILD!
YOU DID NOT
HEED MY
INSTRUCTIONS
CAREFULLY.



NOW,
YOUR MOTHER'S
SON THOUGH A
KSHATRIYA,
WILL TAKE TO THE
LIFE OF AN
ASCETIC.



AND YOUR SON
THOUGH A BRAHMANA,
WILL BECOME
A WARRIOR.



SATYAVATI BEGAN
PLEADING WITH BHRIGU.

O REVERED SIRE,
LET MY GRANDSON
BE SUCH
BUT NOT
MY SON.



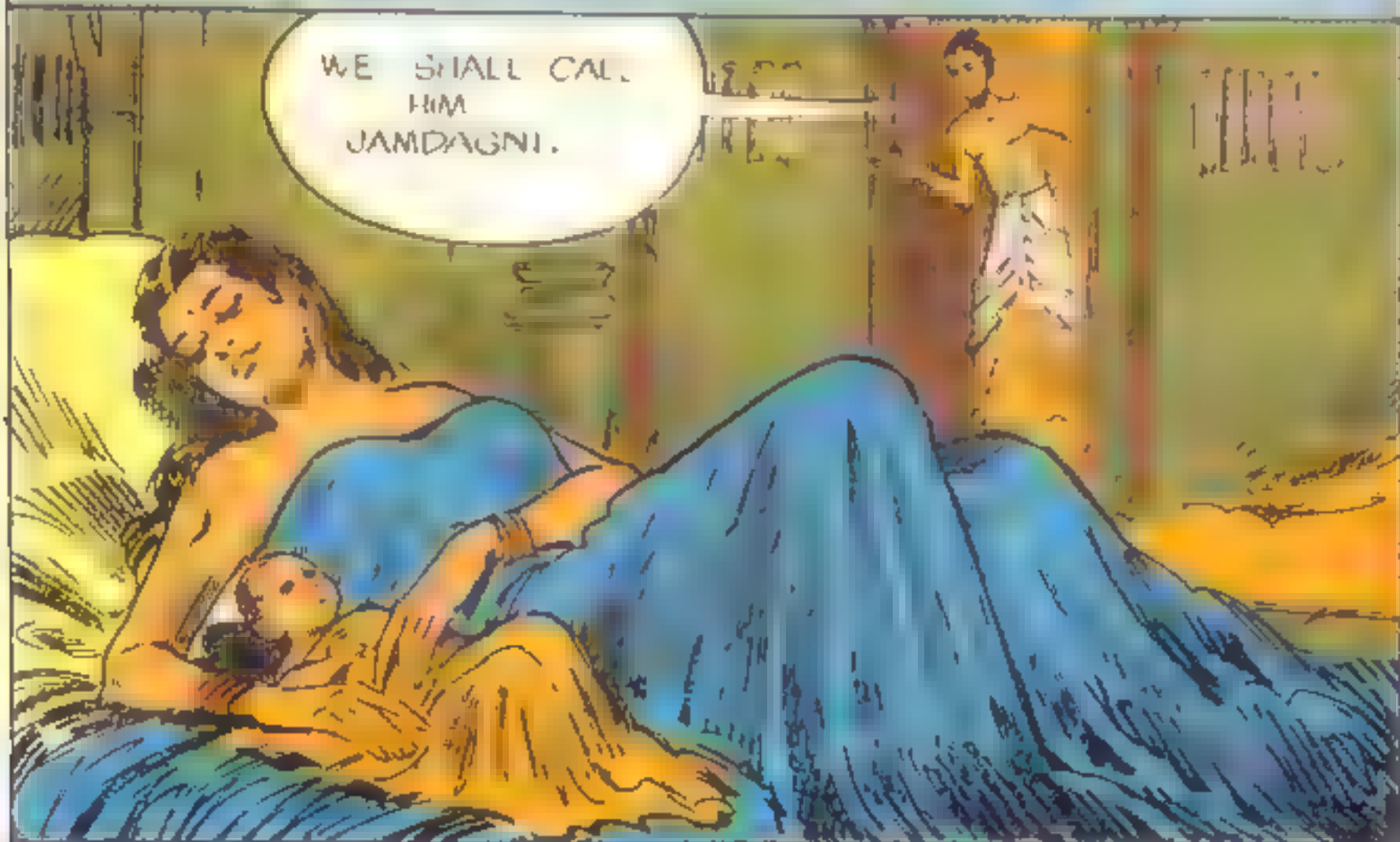
BHRIGU WAS MOVED
BY HER ENTREATIES

SO BE IT,
MY CHILD.
SO BE IT.



IN LATE TIME SAT-ALATI HAD A SON.

WE SHALL CALL
HIM
JAMDAGNI.



ARJUNA CREW
 THE REASON
 THE STORY OF
 THE JUNGLE
 NEARBY
 AND IN THE
 WASTELAND



NOW I
 SHALL ENTER
 THE LIFE OF A
 FIGHTER
 AM KARTAVIRYA

SO HE MARRIED THE
 CHASTE RENUKA.



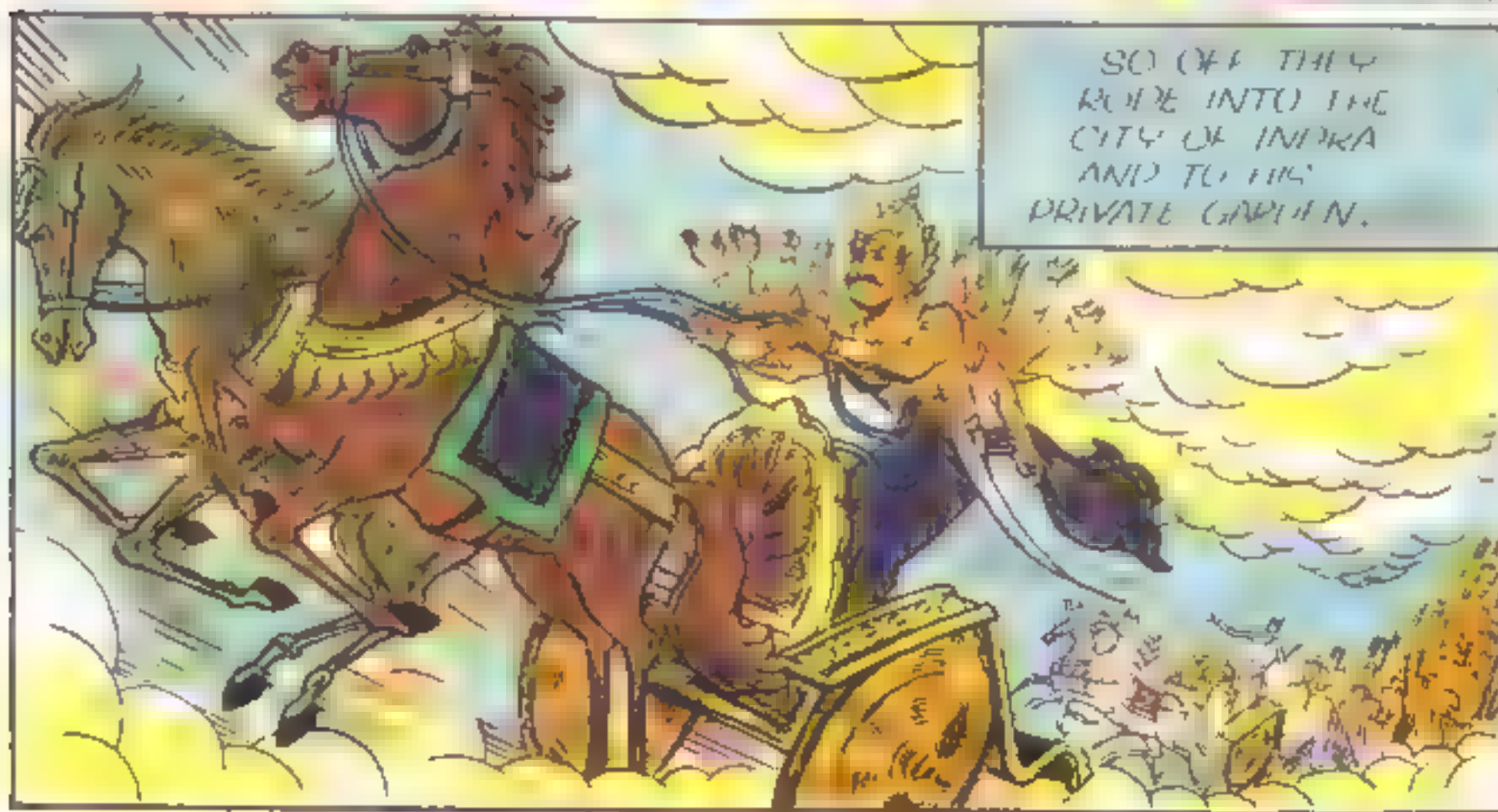
MOST OF THE KARTAVIRYAS
 OF THOSE DAYS WERE
 VICIOUS. THEY WERE
 KILLING A MAN
 AND A WOMAN IN THE
 EARTH THE MOST OF
 THEM WERE KARTAVIRYA
 IN THE, THE KARTAVIRYA
 KING OF THE NATIONS

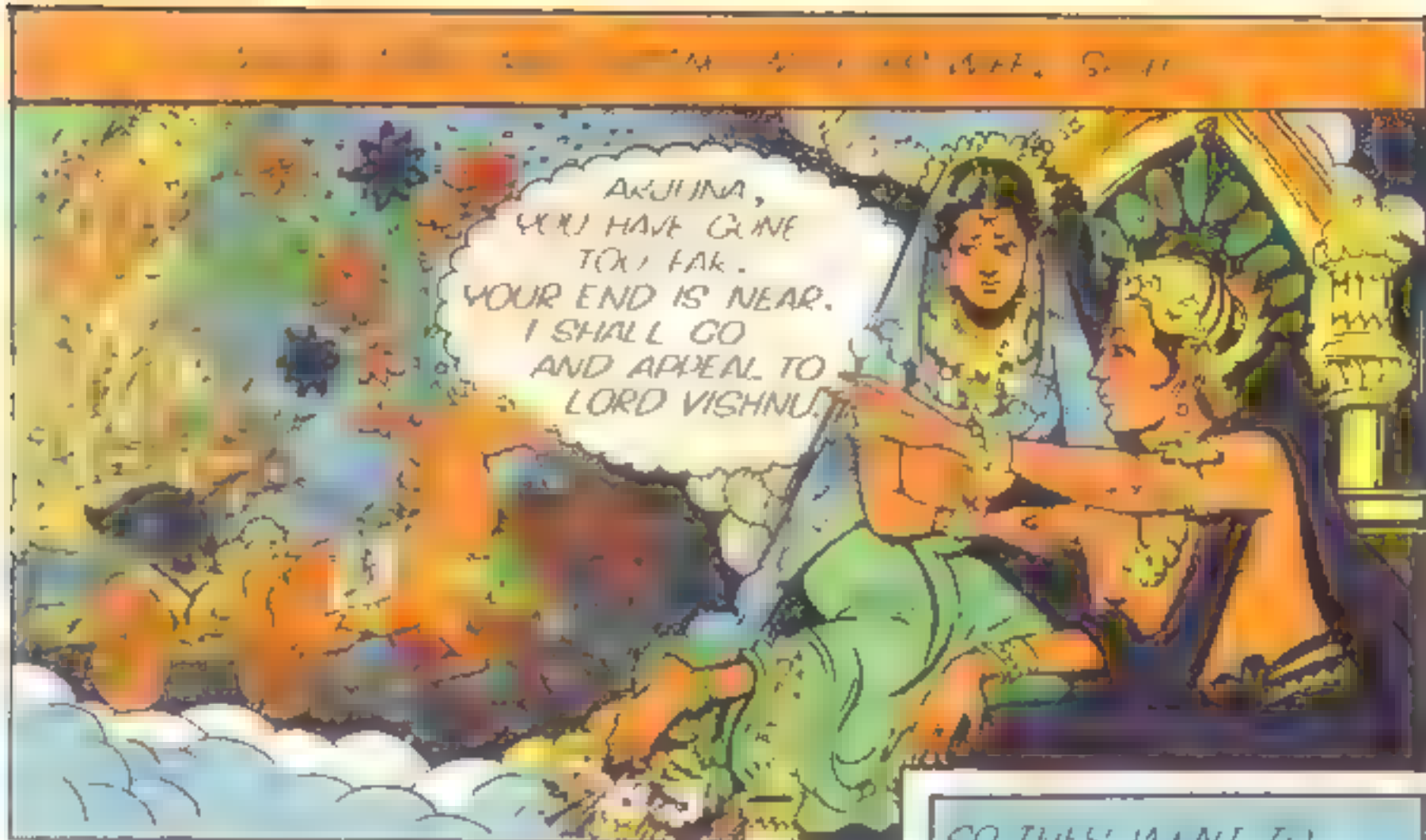


MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA
 ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



RUN! RUN!
 KARTAVIRYA
 ARJUNA
 IS HERE!





THE SAINTS AND SAGES
NO LONGER HEAR THE
WORDS OF THEIR PENANCES AND
SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



SO THEY WANT TO
KILL ARJUNA.



AT LAST THE WAGE HAS SET,
AND IN THE



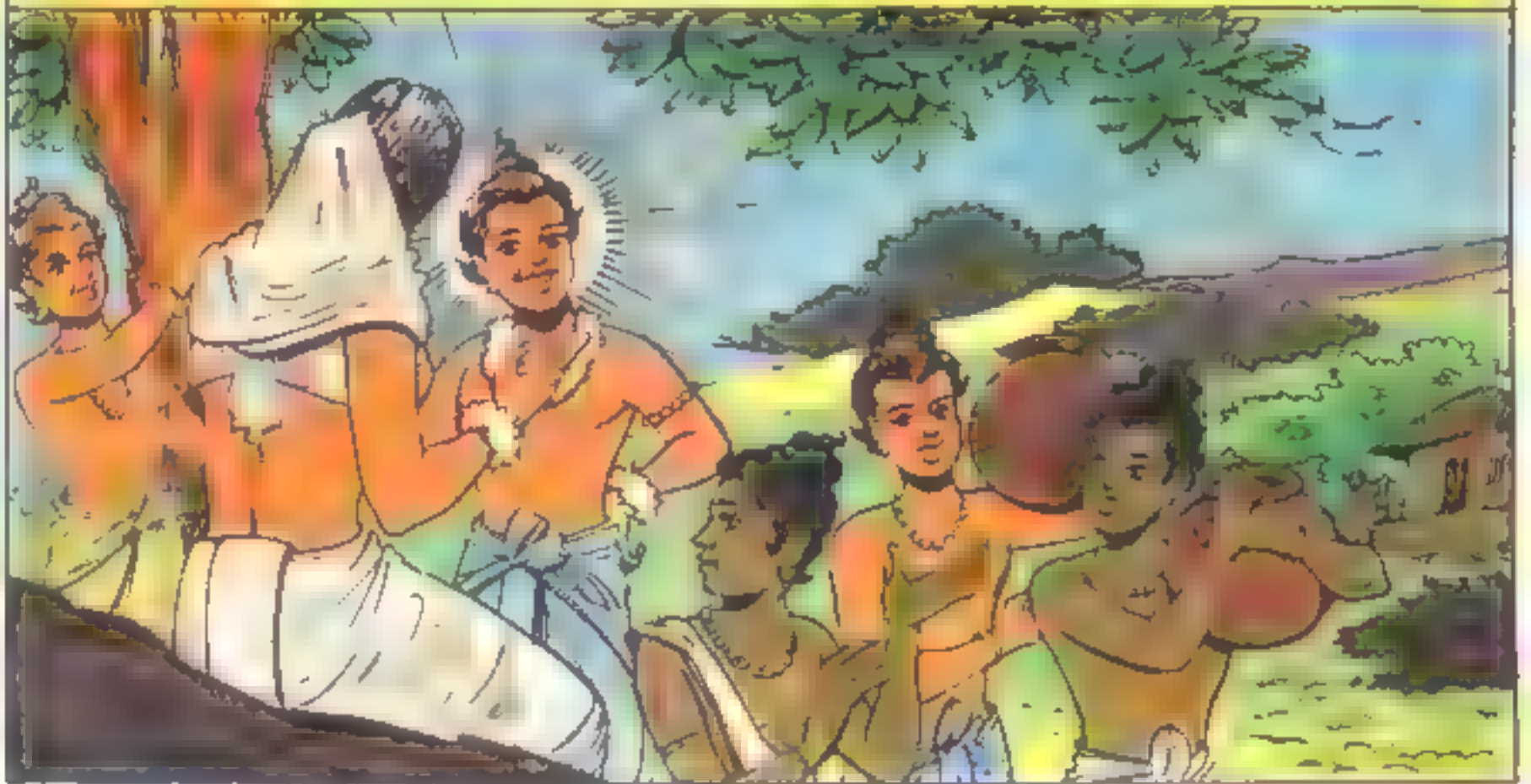
I WILL TAKE AN
AVATAR ON EARTH
AS A BRAHMANA WITH
UNUSUAL PHYSICAL
PROWESS AND
OVERPOWER HIM.



MEANS I AM A BRAHMANA WITH A MAJESTIC



THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FIERCE
AND VERY STRONG.

FINALLY,
RAMA, ONE
OF GODS
STRONGER
THAN
I AM.



... LIVING WITH ALIENS



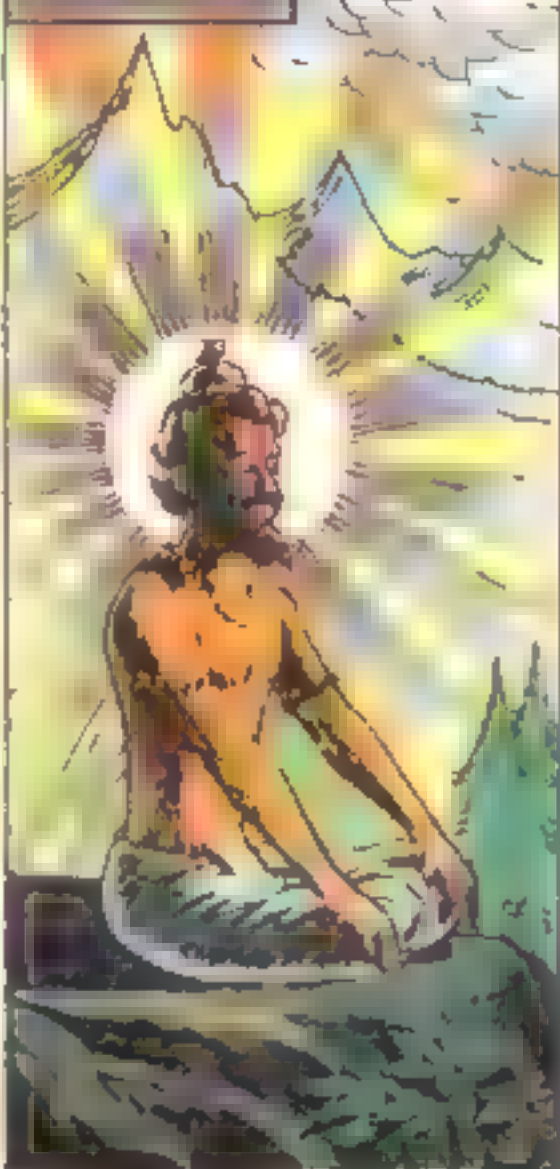
RAMA GROWN UP GREW UP
INTO A STURDY YOUTH.
ONE DAY -

FATHER, I WISH
TO GO TO THE
GANDHAMADANA
MOUNTAINS AND
BY ALSTERE
PENANCES
GAIN LORD
SHIVA'S
FAVOUR

GO
IF YOU MUST
MY SON. YOU
HAVE MY
BLESSINGS



RAMA WENT AND SAT
IN MEDITATION AND
PRACTICED SEVERE
PENANCE.



AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED
TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASSED
ME BY YOUR
DEVOTION.
WHAT IS IT
THAT YOU
DESIRE?

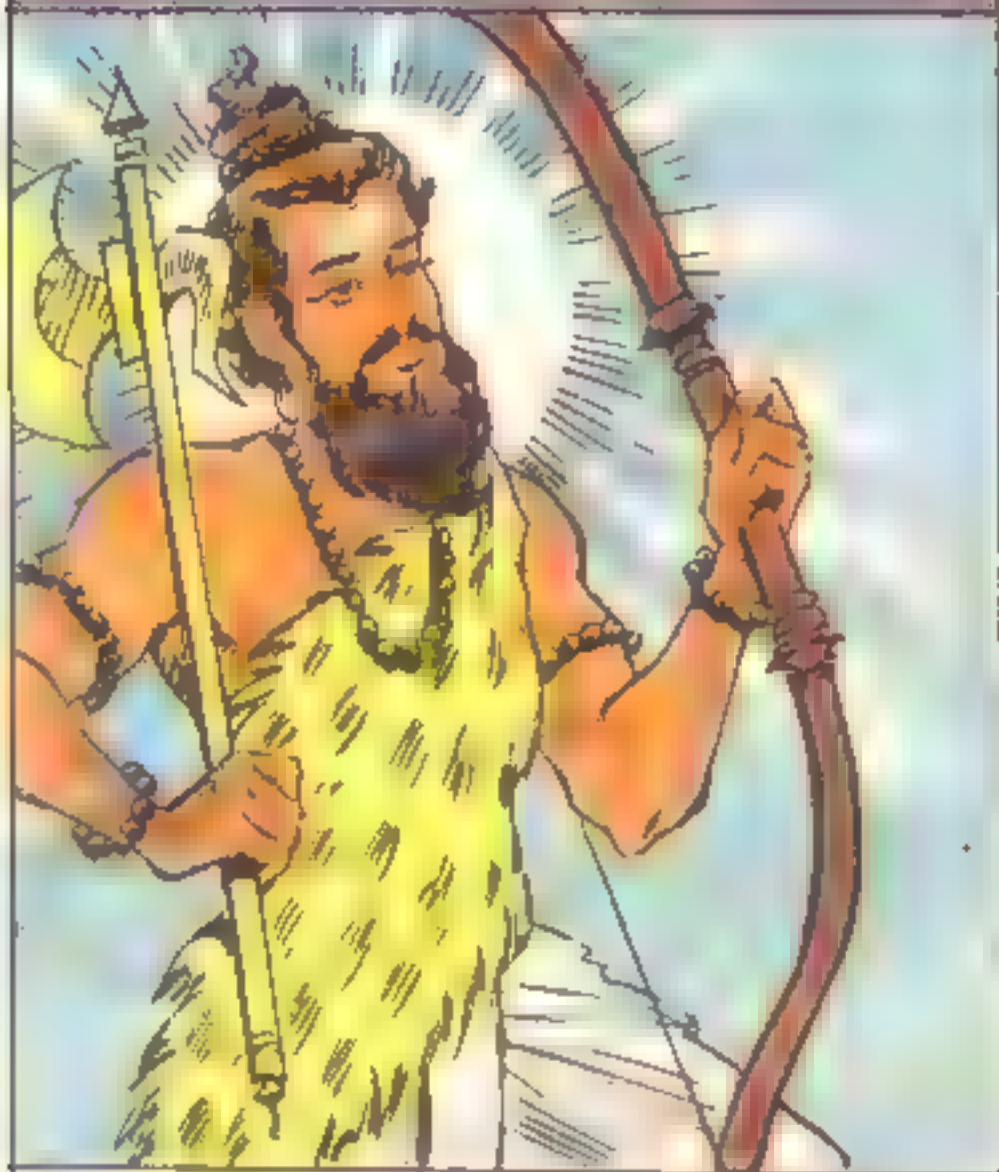


I HAVE SET MY
HEART ON THE
FIERY AXE.
THE POWERFUL
PARASHU.

AS YOU
DESERVE, YOU
SHALL HAVE IT. NO
WARRIOR ON EARTH
SHALL SURPASS
YOU.



ALL FROM THAT DAY RAMA TOOK
 HIS AXE AND PARASHU RAMA*



TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHU-
 RAMA RETURNED TO HIS
 FATHER'S ASHRAM.



RAMA A KA LAKSHYA
 A KA

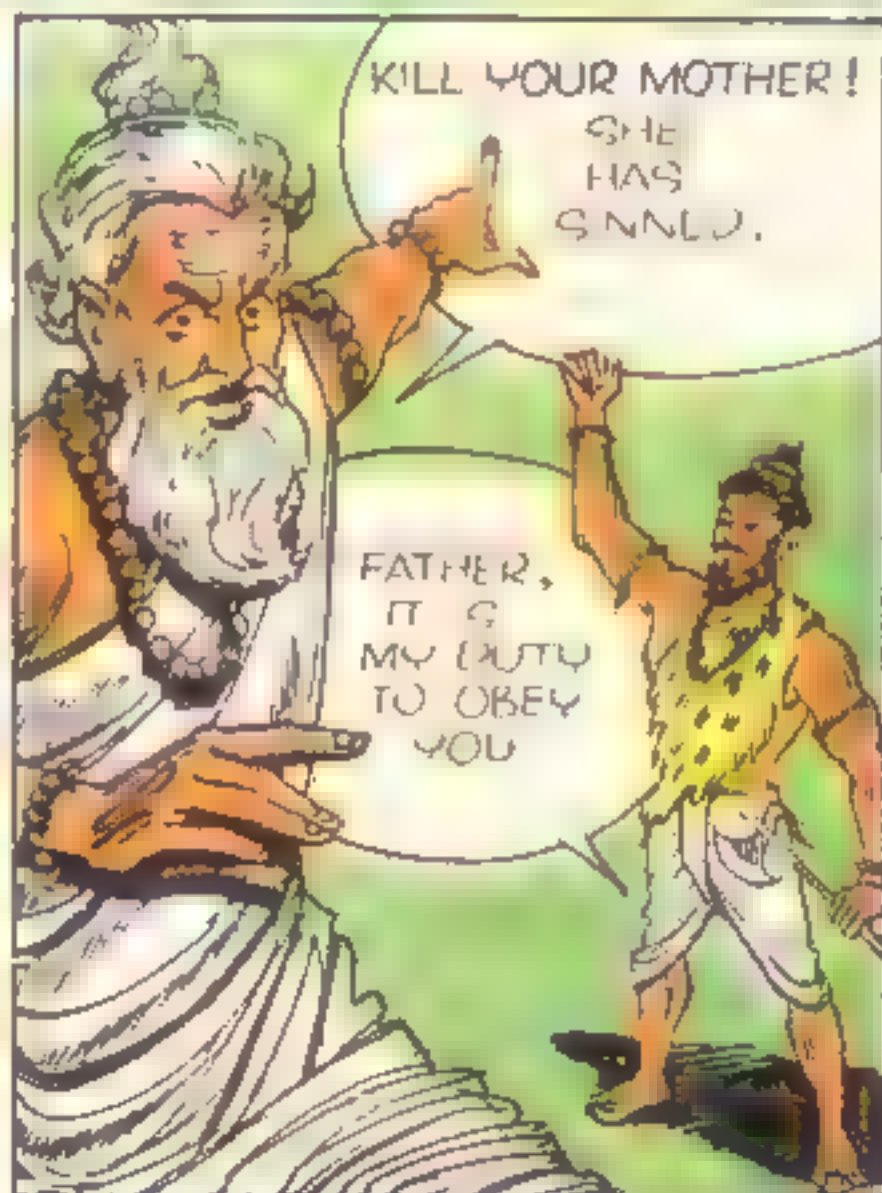
MY SON,
 I AM GLAD
 YOU HAVE RETURNED.
 NOW YOU ARE
 THERE
 TO DO IT



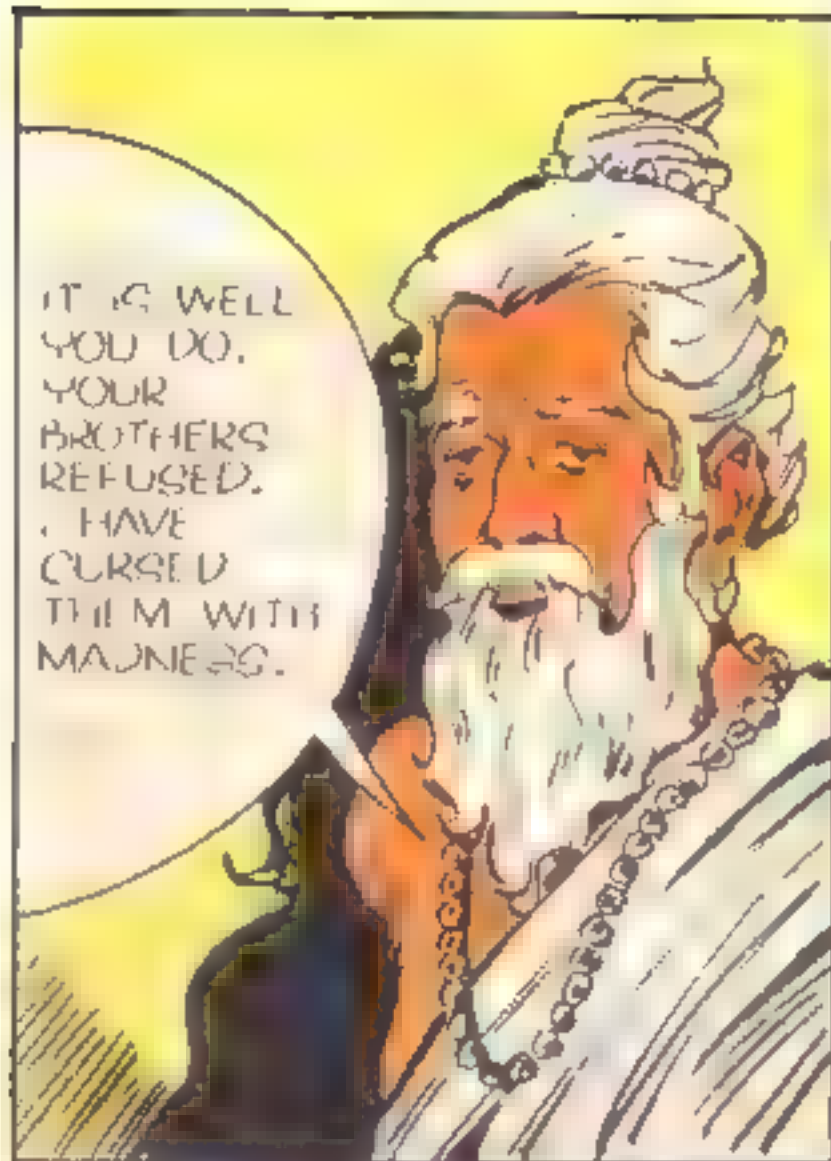
DO
 WHAT
 FATHER?

KILL YOUR MOTHER!
 SHE
 HAS
 Sinned.

FATHER,
 IT IS
 MY DUTY
 TO OBEY
 YOU



*RAMA OF THE AXE.



MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE STANDING PROUDLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.



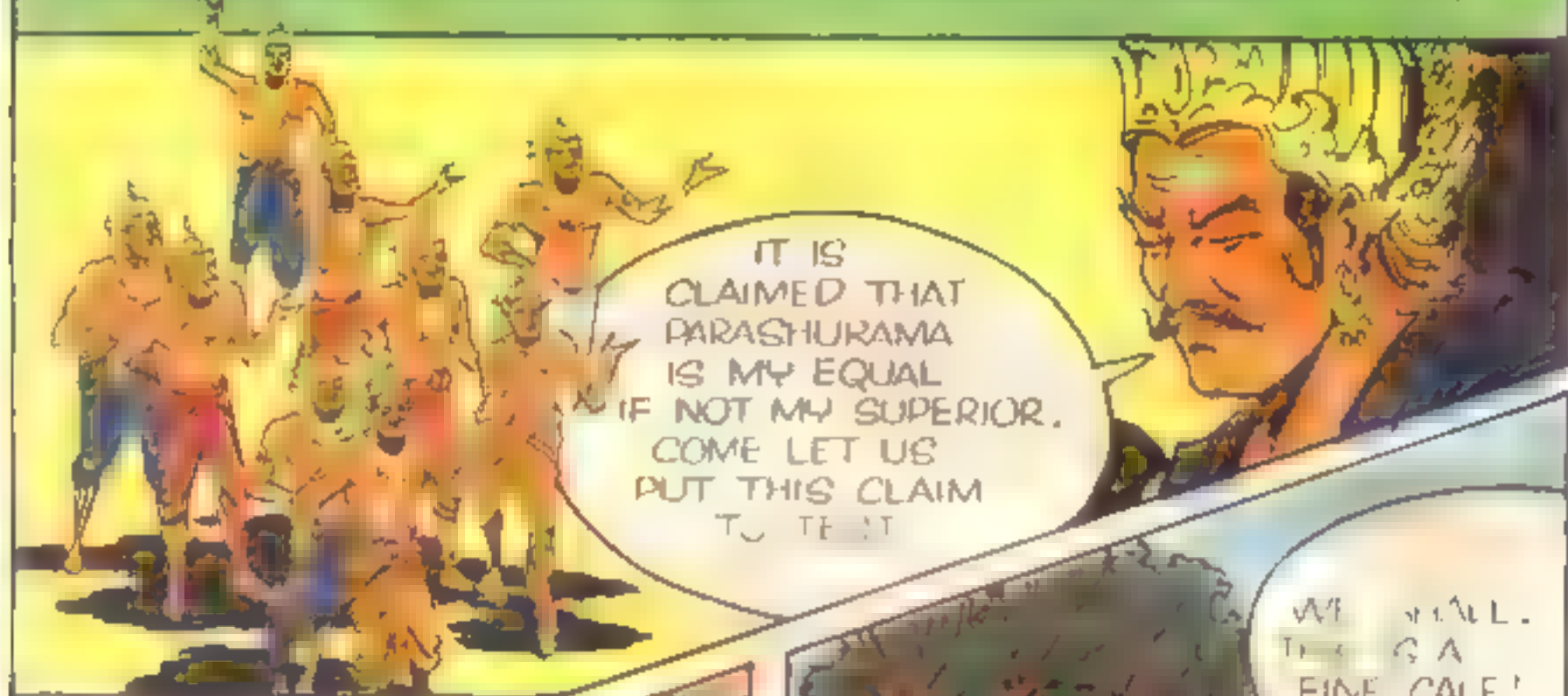
A VOICE
FROM THE SKY
STATED HIM

PLEASE
DO NOT HARM
THE CREATURES
THAT LIVE WITHIN
ME. I SHALL DO WHAT-
EVER YOU ASK OF ME
BUT PLEASE SPARE
THEM.

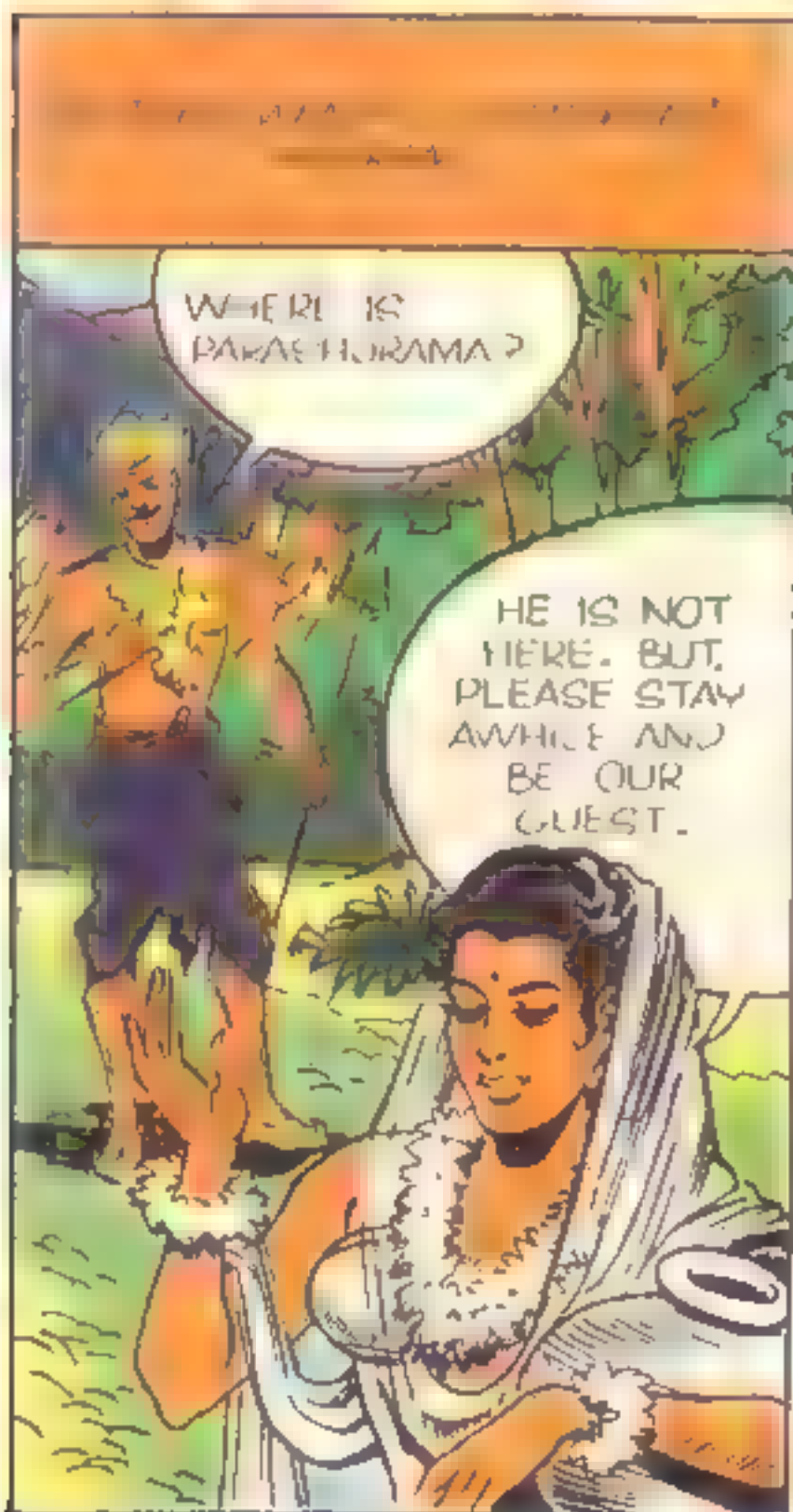
I WILL
IF YOU
ANSWER THIS
QUESTION. IS THERE
A MAN WHO CAN
RIVAL ME?

YES.
PARASHURAMA,
THE SON OF JAMADAGNI.
HE IS MORE THAN
YOUR EQUAL.

KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS HE CALLED HIS MEN TO HIM.

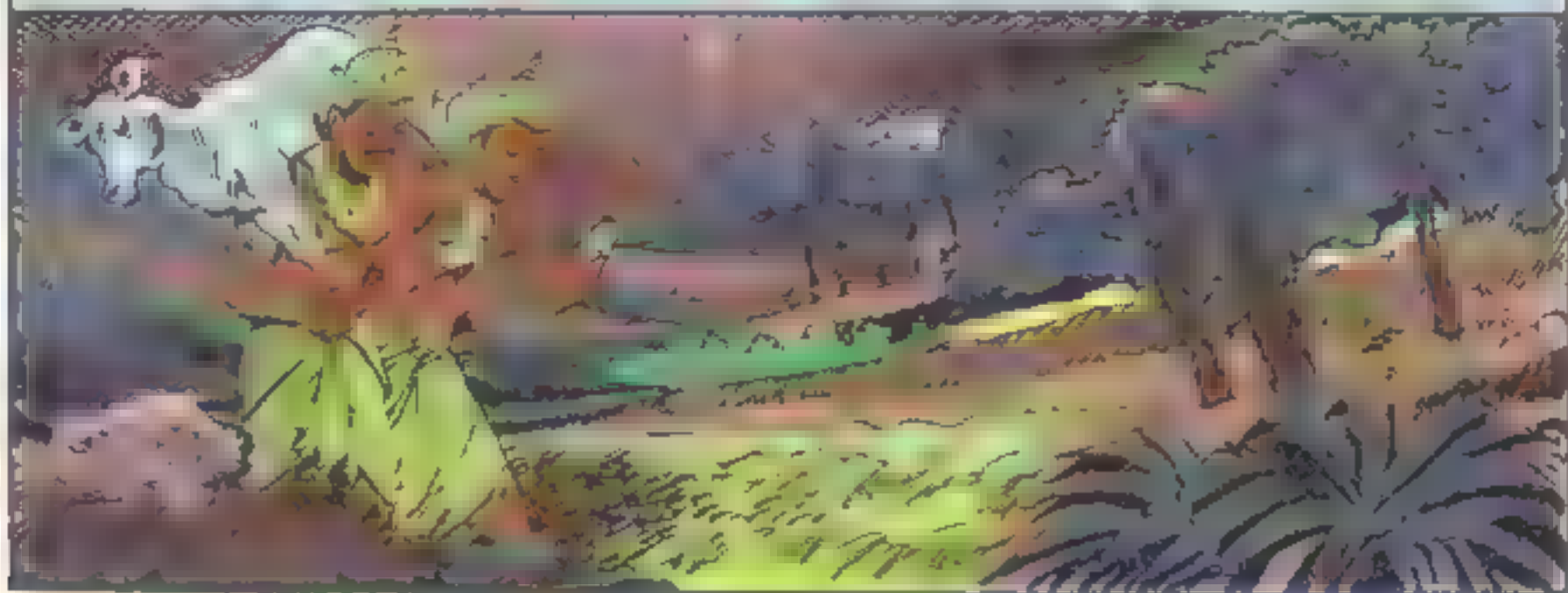


WE WILL
TIE A
FINE CALF!



*THE MILK OF THE HOMA COW IS
USED FOR SACRIFICES ETC.

THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF AKHILA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT



IN THE MORNING, WHEN JAMA RAGNI CAME OUT OF THE ASHRAM

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA RETURNED. HE SAW THEM

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER, FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO SAD? WHERE IS HER CALF? WHY ARE THEY SEPARATED?

AAAH!
KARTAVIYA
ARJUNA HAS
REPAID OUR
HOSPITALITY
BY STEALING
YOUR CALF...



JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM
THE WHOLE STORY.

I SHALL
KILL HIM
AND
REDEEM
YOUR
CALF!



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE
AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF
KAKTAVIKYA KINGHNA



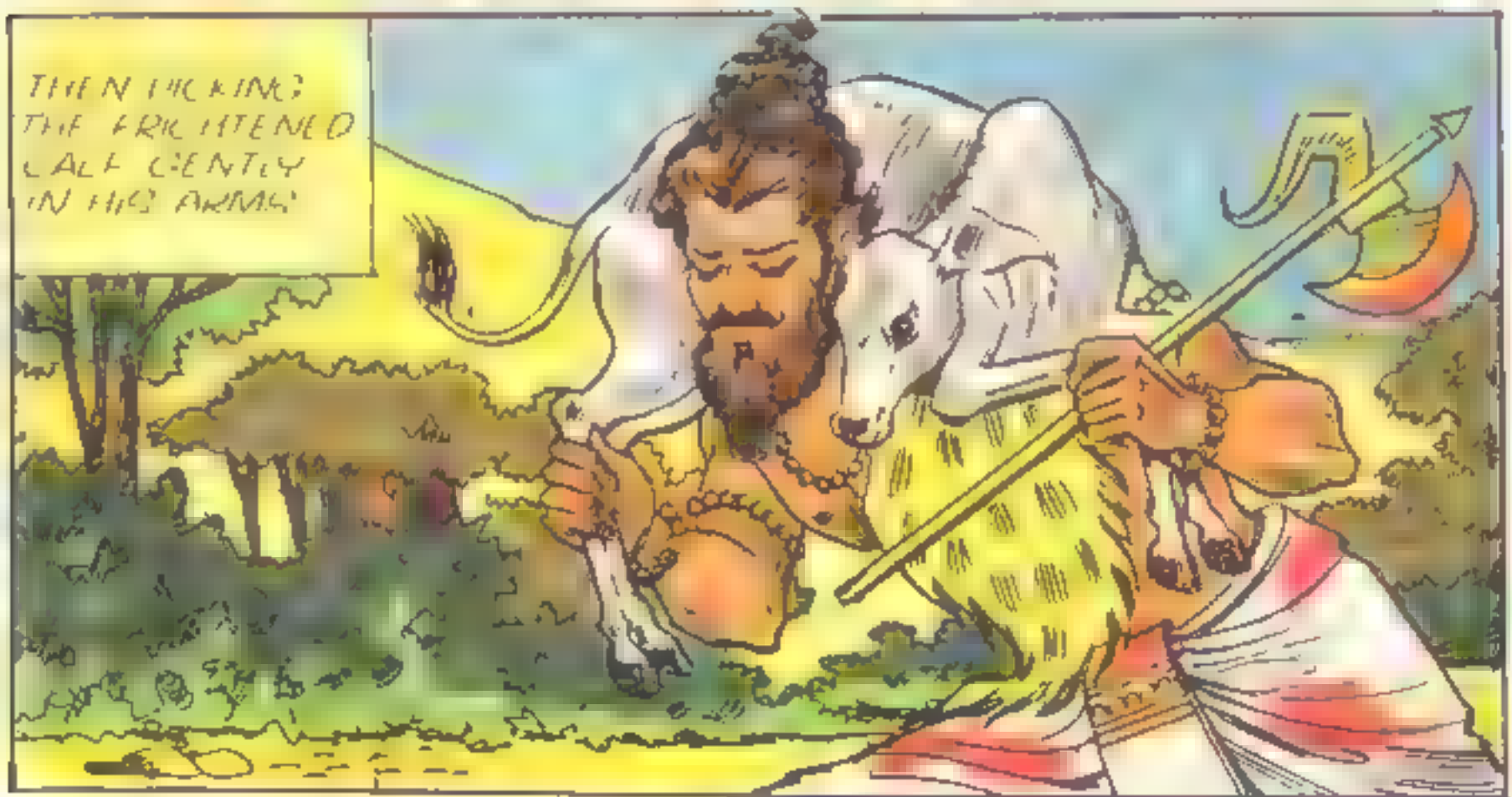
A DREAFFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN
WHICH PARASHURAMA HADDE THE
EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA'S ELEVEN
THOUSAND ARMS



... SLEW HIM.



THEN PICKING
THE FRIGHTENED
CATTLE GENTLY
IN HIS ARMS



HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS
FATHER'S ASHRAM.

FATHER! FATHER!
I HAVE KILLED HIM,
THE VILLAIN WHO STOLE
OUR INNOCENT CALF.



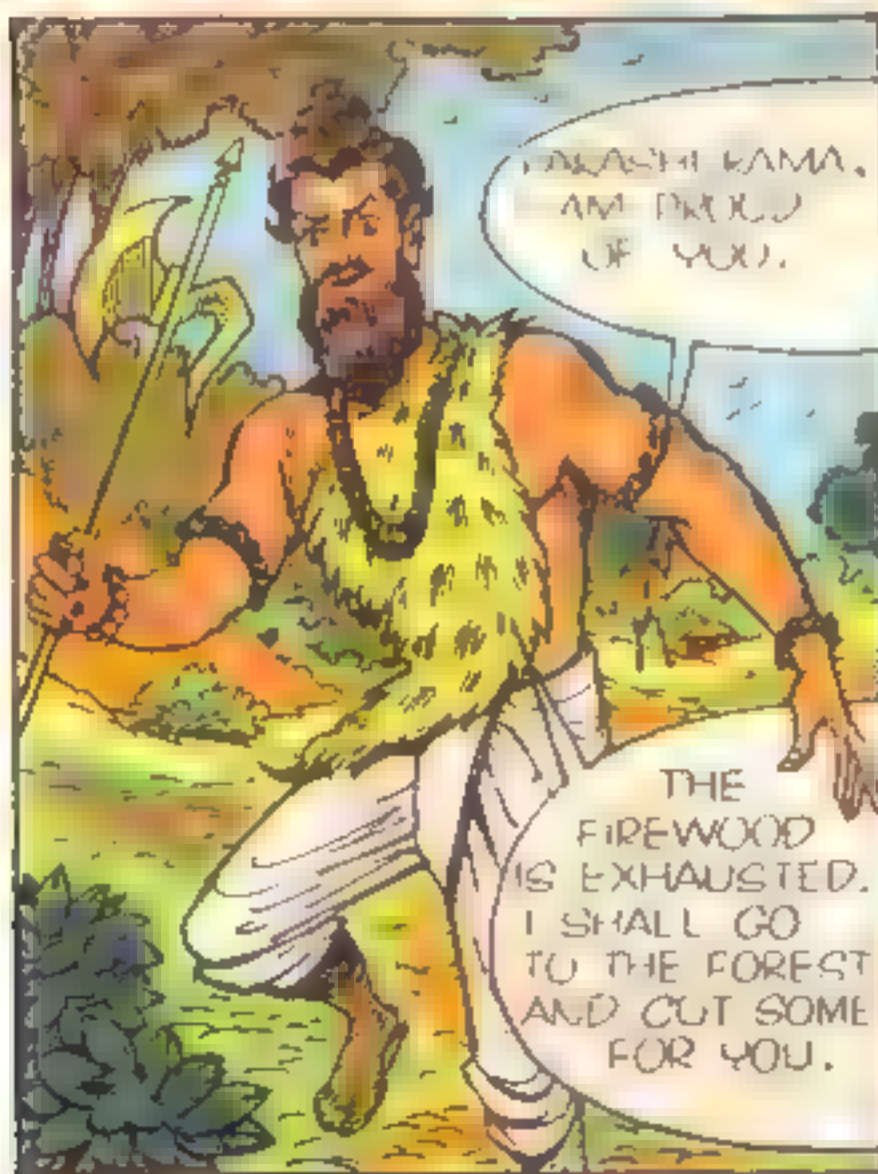
THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW
AND -

GENTLE
MOTHER,
I HAVE BROUGHT
BACK YOUR CALF
FOR YOU



PARASHI KAMA,
AM AFRAID
OF YOU.

THE
FIREFWOOD
IS EXHAUSTED.
I SHALL GO
TO THE FOREST
AND CUT SOME
FOR YOU.



AH,
HE IS DEAD
AND THE CALF
IS MISSING.

NONE
OTHER THAN
PARASHURAMA
COULD BE THE
MURDERER



THEY WERE RIXING

HE SHALL BE
AVENGED!
COME, LET US
SEEK OUT THE
MURDERER

THEY REATED THEIR CRY
NOT TO BE A LITTLE



PARASHURAMA
IS NOT TO BE
SEEN ANYWHERE.

LET US
KILL HIS
FATHER
THEN

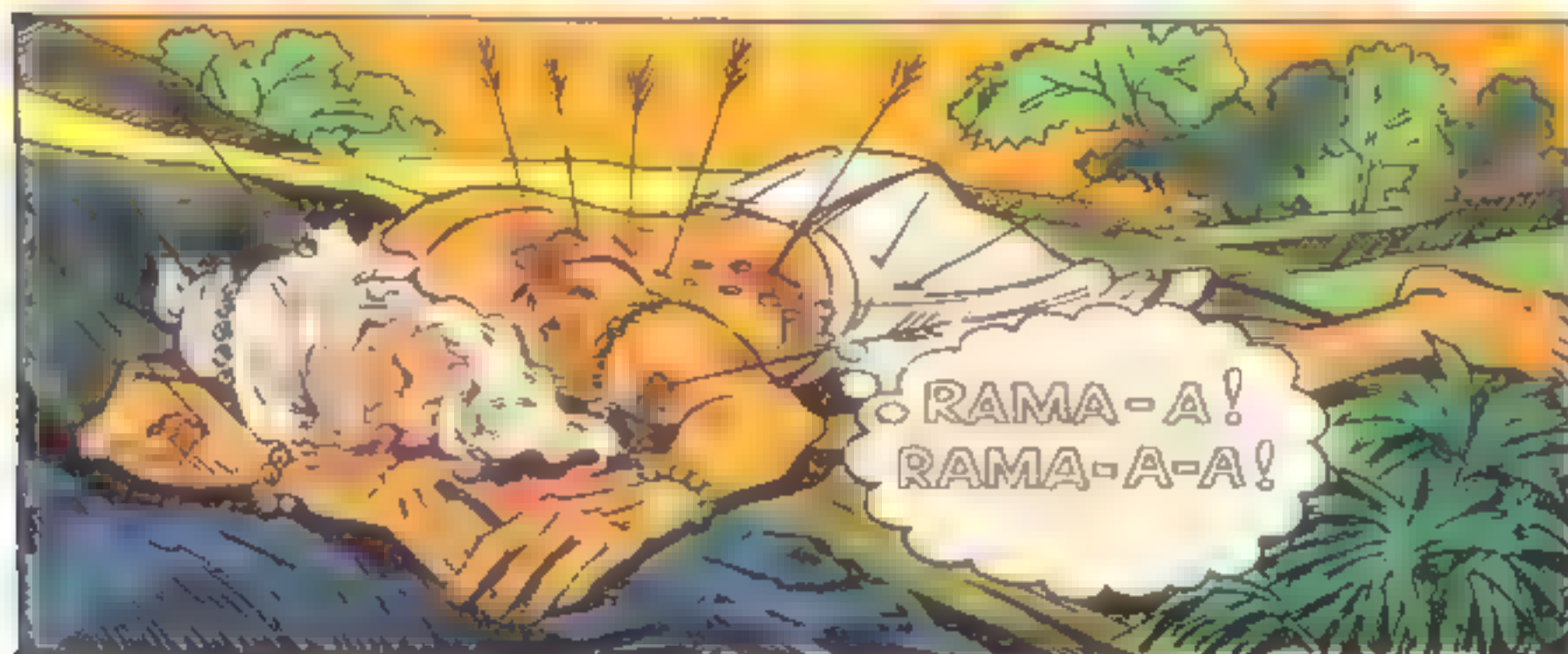
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE KILLED
OUR FATHER.
DIDN'T HE?



THEY ATTA K... AMANAC AND SHOT ARROW AT HIM
FROM ALL DIRECTION



THEY LEFT HIM DEAD AND WENT AWAY





FATHER!
FATHER! IT IS
MY FORTUNE THAT
YOU HAVE BEEN
SHOT DOWN BY A
STAG BY THE MURDERING
ARROWS OF THE MEAN
GUNS OF ARUNA.

WITH
WHAT FACE
WILL THEY RETURN
TO THEIR FRIENDS
AND SERVANTS
AFTER COMMITTING
SUCH A HEINOUS
CRIME?

AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.

I SHALL NOT REST,
DEAR FATHER,
TILL I HAVE WIPED OUT
THE ENTIRE MARTIAL
RACE OF THE
KSHATRIYAS.



WHEN THE LAST EMBERS
DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS
AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-
IMPOSED TASK.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE
FIRST TO BE WIPED OUT



THEN ONE BY ONE HE MAZACKED ALL THE KSHATRIYAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD
SPRING UP

I SHALL FIGHT TILL
NOT A SINGLE ONE
OF YOU IS LEFT. MY
FATHER HAS GRANTED
ME EVERLASTING
LIFE.



THE S' PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPING OUT TWENTY ONE
GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.



IT WAS! HE KILLED WITH HIM
IN BARRACKS BUT THE END
WAS THE GREAT KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE
MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY
WHY DO YOU WANT TO
KILL ME AND DEPRIVE
THEM OF MY
PROTECTION??



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELIANTLESS

ONE OF YOUR CASTE
MURDERED MY FATHER
WHILE HE WAS
DEFENCELESS.
SO YOU SHALL
DIE.



ALAS! OUR KING IS KILLED
AND THERE IS NO
TO PROTECT US

OH YES
AND
VASHISHTHA
HAVE NO
REGARD
FOR
BRAHMANAS
AND
THEIR
WOMEN.



AT THE TIME THE KING WAS
KILLED A...



I SHALL
APPROACH
SAGE
KASHYAPA.

SO MOTHER EARTH, I WENT TO KASHIYAPA.

LORD
PARASHURAMA'S
WORK IS OVER.
I AM RELIEVED
OF MY BURDEN.
PLEASE
STOP HIM NOW.

I WILL SPEAK
TO THE SPIRITS
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,
HE CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHKA.

PARASHURAMA'S
MISSION IS OVER.
IT IS NOW
TIME FOR HIM
TO DESIST.

SO SHALL IT BE.
HE WILL OBEY
HIS ANCESTORS.

AND RICHIKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS -

STOP.
RAMA!

MY SOUL
WILL FIND
NO PEACE TILL
MY VOW IS
FULFILLED.

YOU HAVE
AVENGED YOUR FATHER
MANY TIMES OVER.
MOTHER EARTH HAS BEEN
RELIEVED OF ALL EVIL
KSHATRIYAS.
YOUR WORK
IS DONE.

IT IS
MY DUTY TO OBEY
MY ANCESTORS
WHOM I TRUST
BEFORE ALL.
I SHALL DO
AS YOU SAY.

PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



AFTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, DRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHABADWAJ, CAME TO HIM.

ALAS! YOU COME LATE. ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS THIS BODY AND MY WEAPONS. I CAN GIVE YOU EITHER, AS YOU CHOOSE.



I SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE.



SO PARASHURAMA GAVE DRONA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROWESS IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.



AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.



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